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RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0237
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3343
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1159
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0019
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1027
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 1596
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 2188

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000186

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB
PLEASE PASS TO USTDA DAN STEIN
ENERGY FOR EKIMOFF/THOMPSON
COMMERCE FOR HEUPER
USAID/W FOR EE/AA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/06/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EPET](#) [EINV](#) [ETRD](#) [EIND](#) [KS](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: MIDLAND OIL MOVES FORWARD

REF: ASHGABAT 0169

Classified By: CHARGE RICHARD E. HOAGLAND, 1.4 (B), (D)

¶1. (C) Chairman of the Board and President of the U.S.-based Midland Oil and Gas Company Robert Murphy telephoned the Charge on February 6 to provide a rushed brief on the results of his consortium delegation's visit to Ashgabat that began on January 29 (reftel). He said his overall consortium includes 27 international companies.

¶2. (C) In former Soviet parlance, Midland "over-fulfilled the plan" by a whopping margin. Murphy said Midland is in "pre-qualification status," approved by Deputy Chairman Tachberdi Tagiyev and blessed by President Berdimuhamedov, for a very large business package. He said Midland plans to mobilize within 30 days to send teams back to Ashgabat to conduct detailed contract negotiations for the following:

- three off-shore hydrocarbon blocks (23, 30, 31), and a nation-wide on-shore oil and gas service contract for drilling intensification and improvement of existing wells;
- a nation-wide high-speed wireless Internet system;
- a nation-wide cell-phone system (that would compete with Moscow's MTS that currently dominates market share);
- an electronic exchange system for the commodity exchange and for an eventual stock market;
- a cement plant with an initial annual capacity of two million tons (with a possible increase to five million);

-- a major role in the Turkmenbashy International Seaport modernization and expansion, including provision of new ferries and cargo vessels; and

-- permission to open a joint-venture bank, likely with one of the three Korean banks that form part of Midland's current consortium.

13. (SBU) Murphy said he would stay in close touch with the Embassy.
HOAGLAND